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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. HOOV 115

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Michael D. Hooven

Serial No.: 10/015,346

Filed: December 12, 2001

Examiner:

Art Unit: 3739

For: TRANSMURAL ABLATION DEVICE WITH
CURVED JAWS

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) Christine A. Barglik
) Christine A. Barglik

) Date: May 17, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of the references was submitted to the Patent Office or was cited by the Examiner in the parent application, Serial No. 09/747,609 filed December 22, 2000, which is being relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (35 C.F.R. §1.98(d)).

No inference should be drawn that the attached list sets forth a comprehensive investigation of the prior art, that any or all are pertinent to the invention, or that any apparatus disclosed is

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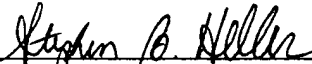
equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



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